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DRAFTED BY:EA/LC:CORCORAN

APPROVED BY:EA:GREEN

AID/EA:O'CONNOR

S/S:MORTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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LIMDIS

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. AMBASSADOR SONN VOEUNSAI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN JULY 22 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA. GREEN RECAPITULATED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PHNOM PENH NOTING THAT HE FELT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA WAS BETTER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED. SPIRIT AND MORALE WERE GOOD. INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE WAS MORE FAVORABLE. THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR GOC. HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE TIME TO STRENGTHEN FANK AND GET IT INTO BETTER SHAPE FOR A LONG

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TERM EFFORT. HE DID NOT UNDERESTIMATE NVN/VC ABILITIES TO FIGHT AND TO INFILTRATE BUT GIVEN THE SPIRIT OF CAMBODIAN YOUTH, CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY, GOC'S CHANCES WERE GOOD.

2. SONN VOEUNSAI SAID GOC HOPED MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD ARRIVE MORE QUICKLY. SEVERAL BATTALIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN ARMED AND GOC WANTED ARMY OF 400,000 MEN TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY AND DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ALL FOREIGN AGGRESSION. HE ASKED WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES WERE FOR US MILITARY AID ON THIS SCALE. GREEN REPLIED THAT FRANKLY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT AN ARMY THAT LARGE WHICH WOULD FURTHERMORE PRESENT TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS FOR GOC BUDGET. THAILAND, WITH FIVE TIMES THE POPULATION OF CAMBODIA AND MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGHOUT ITS TERRITORY, HAD AN ARMY OF ABOUT 100,000. HE FELT THAT FOR CAMBODIA A SMALLER FORCE, WELL EQUIPPED AND WITH RECRUITS IN TRAINING, WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MERE LARGE NUMBERS. QUALITY FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN QUANTITY. GOOD WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF WELL TRAINED SOLDIERS SHOULD BE A FIRST PRIORITY. 10,000 FANK WERE ALREADY IN TRAINING IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND OFFICERS AND NCO'S WERE TO BE TRAINED IN THAILAND. OTHERS OF COURSE WOULD BE TRAINED IN CAMBODIA. ALREADY THERE WERE CLEAR SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN FANK ABILITY. THIS WOULD DEVELOP PRIDE IN CAMBODIA'S OWN FORCES.

3. SONN VOEUNSAI AGREED BUT SAID GOC WANTED TO DEVELOP COMBAT UNITS TO SUPPRESS CONTINUING ENEMY ATTACKS AND THAT IT HAD ALREADY ENROLLED MANY TROOPS. IF THESE HAD TO BE RELEASED FROM SERVICE OWING TO LACK OF WEAPONS THE EFFECT ON MORALE WOULD BE BAD. HE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO FIND A STRENGTH FIGURE THAT WAS NEITHER TOO LARGE TO SUPPORT NOR TOO SMALL TO SUPPRESS ENEMY ATTACKS. HE ASKED WHAT FIGURE COULD BEST MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS.

4. GREEN SAID HE COULD NOT COME UP WITH A FIGURE BUT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A REGULAR ARMY, TRAINEES, PART-TIME IRREGULARS, POLICE, KHMER KROM AND KHMER THAI. WE WERE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LQN NOL AND FANK OFFICERS AND WE WOULD BE FORMULATING PLANS FOR WHAT WE COULD DO WITHIN BUDGETARY LIMITS. CONFIDENTIALLY, WE ARE SEEKING MORE MONEY FOR MILITARY AND

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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO GET JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THAILAND AND OTHERS TO DO MORE. PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EXPERTS WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS IN REGARD TO ARMS, COMMUNICATIONS, TRAINING AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE. VARIOUS OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA HAD TO BE COORDINATED INCLUDING SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOC NEEDS. ALL THIS ASSISTANCE HAD TO BE HANDLED IN A WAY TO PRESERVE KHMER NEUTRALITY. WE WERE GLAD TO SEE THAT LON NOL, PRESIDENT THIEU AND SOUVANNA PHOUMA ALL REJECTED THE IDEA OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE BUT SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF COOPERATION. WE WERE ALSO MINDFUL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING SIHANOUK FROM BEING SEATED AT THE LUSAKA CONFERENCE.

5. SINCE RETURNING FROM CAMBODIA GREEN NOTED HE HAD REPORTED TO THE SECRETARY (WHO HAD HAD USEFUL TALKS WITH FONMIN KOUN WICK), AND THE SECRETARY HAD REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT. THE SECRETARY AND HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED CAMBODIA WITH SATO, FUKUDA AND AICHI SEPARATELY. MOST RECENTLY, SECRETARY AND HE HAD BRIEFED SENATORS FULBRIGHT, MANSFIELD, COOPER AND AIKEN. ALL THESE EFFORTS HAD BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD BUILDING UP UNDERSTANDING OF GOC'S SITUATION IN US AND IN JAPAN.

6. SONN VOEUNSAI RETURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF SMALL ARMS FOR BATTALIONS ALREADY FORMED. GREEN NOTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR SEEMED APPREHENSIVE ON THIS SCORE BUT ASSURED HIM HE WOULD FIND OUT THAT WE WOULD DO MUCH IN THIS DIRECTION BUT HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO SPECIFIC PROMISES. HE THEN REVIEWED MILITARY SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO GOC THROUGH JULY 17. HE SAID WE WOULD SOON KNOW THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED AND THEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD DISCUSS PRIORITIES. SMALL ARMS NO DOUBT WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE A TOP PRIORITY. HE RECOGNIZED POINT AMBASSADOR WAS MAKING AND REALIZED THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO DISAPPOINT THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO HAD ALREADY RALLIED TO THE COLORS. WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD IN THIS REGARD.

7. CONCERNING ECONOMIC AID GREEN SAID THAT HE AND MR. O'CONNOR, AID, HAD CALLED ON CHAIRMAN OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION. HE COULD NOT GIVE

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ANY FIGURES BUT HE COULD SAY WE WERE PLANNING AN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCLUDING BUDGET SUPPORT. SONN VOEUNSAI SAID LON NOL HAD CITED A REQUIREMENT OF DOLS 100 MILLION. GREEN SAID IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO PLAN ON TOO BIG A BUDGET WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT RESOURCES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM ALL SOURCES TO MATCH EXPENDITURES. GREEN MENTIONED WE HAD ALREADY SENT TWO AMERICAN EXPERTS TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE SITUATION AND THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT GOC INVITE IMF TEAM TO CAMBODIA. (THIS HAS NOW BEEN DONE).

8. IN CONCLUSION SONN VOEUNSAI SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION AND THIS WAS DUE TO US ASSISTANCE FOR WHICH GOC PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL.

GP-3.
ROGERS

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